

4. The Community: Past, Present and Future

In order to know where we are going in the future, it is important to reflect upon where we have come from in the past, and where we stand now. Whilst the present community of South Karori has predominantly informed the development of this plan, it is important to recognise the strong cultural, historical and spiritual connections that exist between local iwi and the area.

South Karori was a significant region for local iwi as it contained cultivations and wahi mahinga kai (food gathering areas), specifically birding areas. The region was a natural area of movement with some small kainga located in South Karori.

The past is connected to the present via the strong spiritual links that still exist between Maori and the area.

Following the arrival of European settlers to Wellington, the area assumed some importance for farming and families began to settle in the area. Farming has subsequently scaled down as a primary activity with a combination of some traditional farming, recreation and rural lifestyle activities now predominating.

The present resident community of South Karori is a small one. Whilst the community is not particularly diverse demographically speaking, there is diversity in the range of values and life experiences. It has become apparent in the preparation of the Community Plan that the community is generally close-knit. This is particularly so for residents living in relatively close proximity to each other on South Karori Road.

It is difficult to predict who will be living in this area in the future. However, this plan, by encouraging sustainable management of resources, will help to ensure that future communities living in the area will be able to enjoy the key qualities that the present community appreciates.